THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

By October 1, 1998, each State is required to transmit the required data elements to the Federal Case Registry (FCR). The SCR-to-FCR interface must automatically transmit and receive child support information for IV-D cases and non IV-D orders established or modified on or after October 1, 1998.

The purpose of this FCR Technical Assistance Guide (TAG) is to provide a suggested blueprint to be used by State technical staff to code for the:

- extraction of data from the SCR for transmission to the FCR; and
- receipt of data from the FCR and integration of that data into the State's system to facilitate interstate locate and enforcement activities.

This TAG is a companion document to the FCR Interface Guidance Document (IGD), which provides:

- an overview of the expanded Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS);
- an explanation of the FCR system;
- detailed information regarding FCR processing of State data;
- technical information for submitting and receiving data (i.e., FCR record specifications for incoming and outgoing transactions); and
- guidance on how to use FCR data.

This document does not repeat information provided within the IGD; it is provided as a tool for programmers to supplement the information in the IGD. The TAG presents, for a State's consideration, suggested mechanics for extracting and integrating FCR information. The methods presented within the TAG are not the only ways in which a State may code the SCR-to-FCR interface. These methods are suggestions that may provide a viable starting point for programmers in writing code, or at least provide a logical premise to foster development of a methodology more suitable to a particular State system environment.

Housed within this document are printouts of code skeletons that may be tailored to your State system to extract data from the SCR for transmission to the FCR. Also included are printouts of code skeletons that may be used to help integrate the data received back from the FCR. Accompanying the printed TAG is a diskette which contains the code skeletons, in the event that the State decides to use these materials.

In an effort to make location of information as easy as possible for programmers, the TAG is formatted as follows:

Part 1.0, "General Processing Flow," provides an overview of the requirements of the SCR-to-FCR interface, as well as an overview of the methodology suggested in this TAG for a State's consideration in establishing the SCR-to-FCR interface.

Part 2.0, "Overview of the Trigger and Audit Files," provides explanations of the Trigger File and Audit File concepts. The file layouts and key structures for the Trigger and Audit Files are provided, as well as the transaction types for the Trigger File.

Part 3.0, "Modifications Required to CSE Systems for the SCR-to-FCR Interface," primarily serves as a reminder that modifications will be required within the State's system to accommodate the generation of FCR transactions. A general listing of the CSE actions that trigger FCR transactions is provided. The detailed information developed for this section was placed in the FCR IGD. That information is not repeated here. Therefore, it is important to refer to the IGD, Section 6.0, "FCR Transaction-Specific Information," and Appendix K "SCR/FCR Transactions and Responses" for the details of each action within the State system that should generate an FCR transaction.

Part 4.0, "Inbound Processing (SCR-to-FCR)," provides an overview of the submittal process for a State's initial load to the FCR, as well as an overview of how routine transactions should be sent to the FCR on an ongoing basis after the initial load. Modifications to the code skeleton and Job Control Language (JCL) requirements are also discussed.

Part 5.0, "Outbound Processing (FCR-to-SCR)," provides an overview of how to process transactions received from the FCR. This includes acknowledgements received from the FCR, as well as proactive matches and locate transaction responses. A suggested program flow for processing response files is provided. Detailed information concerning the receipt of response transactions, including how to modify the provided code skeleton and JCL requirements, also are included. Part 5.0 also provides code to filter response data and create the audit file updates for both an automated and manual process. Code is also provided to initiate re-submissions of corrected transactions. Interstate follow-up is also addressed.

Part 6.0, "Management Information Reports," describes how to interpret success rates and necessary follow up with re-submissions.

Appendix A contains a listing of "Assistance Contacts."

Appendix B contains a Dear Colleague Letter addressing the Initial Load (DC-98-54).

Appendix C contains a printout of the "Skeleton Code Listing for Initial Load."

Appendix D contains a printout of the "Skeleton Code Listing for Ongoing Routine Transactions."

NOTE: For the purposes of this TAG, transactions sent from the SCR to the FCR are considered ***inbound transactions***. Transactions sent from the FCR to the SCR are considered

outbound transactions. Processing is described from the viewpoint of the FCR so as to be consistent with the record specifications presented in the IGD.